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Protest results in 12 suspensions
Carovano administration under fire

Protestors gather outside Buttrick after the suspensions are announced.

Student protests the suspension of 12 Hamilton students and an alumnus.

by Richard Larson

At 7:00 p.m. last Friday security locked the Buttrick door as the final protestors left the sit-in action. But although the action came to an end the repercussions will continue for some time. Twelve suspensions, letters of warning, a student strike, and a pending faculty motion for a lack of confidence in the President's actions all continue to be discussed and the ultimate results are far from clear.

The current crisis began when about sixty students entered the lobby of Buttrick at 4:15 on Wednesday November 12. Although the front door was open, the staff had been sent home and the rest of the building locked up. According to Dean of Students Jane Jervis the administration had received word of an all night sit-in in Buttrick. "We had a flyer to that effect saying to bring food and sleeping bags. Some people at least were planning to stay all night and the building was closed in anticipation of that event."

This assertion has been questioned by the protestors. Julie Jones '88 had "no knowledge of any flier." Robert Thayer '89 stated that "I was there when one student wrote on a pad asking who was willing to stay all night. The protest originally was scheduled to go from 4 to 6 and any flier I saw on campus said just that. I suppose it's possible but no one I know of had planned to stay all night until after the sit-in began."

Jervis says that the flier had been given to Vice President Dan O'Leary. When asked whether it would be possible to see the flier O'Leary replied that "I probably threw it away."

On Thursday the college began disciplinary action against the group in Buttrick. A temporary restraining order was served and named four faculty, seventeen students and " others whose names are unknown, acting individually and in concert". It banned them from disrupting public order or obstructing college buildings, rooms or roads.

Further, a formal warning was sent to many students and their parents saying that further participation in disruptive or obstructive activities would mean "further disciplinary action, up to and including immediate seperation from the College. Continuation of unlawful conduct will jeopardize your future at Hamilton."

Identification of the involved students was made by Deans Jervis, Savage and McGee partly by writing down names and descriptions of students. In addition, Security had been issued video equipment to tape the proceedings. These tapes were all used for identifications.

According to Jervis, Thursday "starting at 4:30 or 4:35 everybody that we could identify received a letter."

This assertion has been questioned. Many of the protestors did not receive letters including some whose names were specifically taken by the Deans.

Students who were not in Buttrick did receive letters. Jervis said that "A couple of people have come in and said that they were not in Buttrick and if they say that it's possible. If any student was not in the building we would pull the letter from their file. It was a very stressful procedure and we may not have been totally complete."

Friday morning the Deans informed those students left in Buttrick that they would be suspended. The members of the coalition quickly gathered and most decided to leave the building. However, twelve students and one alumnus decided that they would remain in the building. The Deans returned just before 1:00 and twelve students were suspended and given 48 hours to leave the campus until May of 1987. A meeting was called for 5:00 p.m. at Buttrick by the coalition and at that time the remaining students announced they would leave at 7:00 p.m.

This past Monday the President, Jervis, O'Leary and Dean Melvin Endy met with representatives of the coalition that represented the groups who had sponsored the sit-in. Outside a group of more than 100 students, faculty and others called for the reinstatement of the twelve.

The meeting was accoridng to Jervis "inconclusive. It went on for something like two hours and was adjourned by a decision of the group." The President agreed to an apology to the black students on campus for perceived racist remarks in the divestment debate. He informed the group that the twelve's suspensions would not take effect until after the Fall Term. He was unwilling to consider reinstatement. The talks broke down over the suspensions. The issues of Afro-American studies, a symposium on racism and sexism, and removing letters from students files were not discussed.

The suspensions have created a great deal of controversy. The President has been widely criticized for making an executive decision. According to Robert Baron '87, the decision "ignored the process under the rules in Policies and Procedures which call for a J-Board hearing and for faculty consultation. Also it disregarded the principle that a person is innocent until *proven* guilty. That alone proves his decision wrong."

Jervis states however "that the judgement we made last week was that something had to be done to get them out of the builidng and J-Board proceedings, which would take weeks, would not accomplish that."

The faculty also is concerned with the severity of the penalty and the manner in which it was made. At an emergency meeting on Wednesday the faculty spent 2½ hours questioning the process and the appropriateness of the decision. Monday at the regular faculty meeting the faculty will consider a lack of confidence vote in the Presidents actions and possibly in the President himself.

Student groups have also become involved in the issue. The Student Assembly has criticized the decision. A group of the campus leaders has sent a letter criticizing the decision and supporting a student strike. The student strike of campus jobs and services continues through Friday with mixed results.

Carovano reflects on week's actions

Interview Conducted by Jonathan Kirsch

***Spectator:* At the faculty meeting on Wednesday you said that you were on campus last Wednesday night. You made no attempt to directly contact the protesters, yet you have acknowledged that on Wednesday night the situation was serious. How do you explain your absence Thursday when apparently you knew the gravity of the situation?**

Carovano: I was on campus Wednesday night. That is, I arrived back from Chicago at approximately 9:00 pm. and I met with Dean Jervis, Dan O'Leary, and the College's attorney at my home for an hour or an hour and a half. Dean Jervis was the college official authorized to talk with students and I had every confidence that she could carry out her responsibilities. I saw no need for me to stay on campus.

***Spectator:* If you knew that you would be coming back on Friday, why didn't you wait until you returned to suspend the twelve students personally?**

Carovano: The answer to that question is similar to answers I have given to earlier questions. Dean Jervis is responsible for students' discipline. I have complete confidence in her. I was in regular contact with her and Mr. O'Leary and I saw no need for me to be here personally in order for her to carry out her responsibilities.

***Spectator:* There has been a tremendous amount of controversy in the past week concerning whether or not you actually had the authority to suspend the twelve students without consulting the faculty. Page four of the Guide to Policies and Procedures of the College reads: "Hamilton College reserves the right, at any time, to suspend for any period or to separate from the college any student whose presence on the campus is, in the sole judgement of the College, detrimental to the best interests of the College." Who then, is "Hamilton College?" Are you? Do you see yourself as the sole authority?**

Carovano: Literally, if you want to know who "Hamilton College" is, it is the Hamilton Board of Trustees. They are Hamilton College. They speak for it. I am their delegated representative on the campus.

***Spectator:* On page fourteen of the Guide, it says "Responsibility for student discipline is assigned by the Board of Trustees to the President and Faculty." What happened to the faculty? Why weren't they consulted? What happened to the "Process?"**

Carovano: My actions were based on the last sentence of the paragraph you've just read the first sentence of.

***Spectator:* You mean "The right of the President to decide finally on any student disciplinary matter is not precluded by the provisions outlined below." Many people have complained that the inclusion of the word "finally" makes the entire sentence ambiguous.**

Carovano: Yes, people have suggested that that last sentence is ambiguous but our lawyer assured us that it did enable us to do what Jane Jervis did under my direction.

***Spectator:* Why didn't you think the situation warranted a Judiciary Board hearing?**

Carovano: We were concerned about timeliness. A Judiciary Board would have been at least a week and we simply were not prepared to take the risk that during that week we would have students sitting in these offices.

***Spectator:* Have you personally spoken with any of the twelve suspended students?**

Carovano: I believe some of the suspended students have been involved in some of the meetings that I have been involved in during this week. I have talked back and forth with them in that setting.

***Spectator:* How do you explain the fact that some, but not all, of the protesters received letters of warning? Some who weren't even there received letters, while some who admit to having been present did not.**

Carovano: I can't comment on that. You'd have to talk to Dean Jervis.

***Spectator:* You have been heavily criticized for your "Holocaust" comments at the debate. If your comments have been misconstrued, what exactly did you mean to say?**

Carovano: At the debate on Monday night I spoke from notes of course in the first part of it, but in the second part—the rebuttal—I did not. So I do not know exactly what I did say. I was troubled by Rick Werner's effort of link apartheid and genocide over the Holocaust. The things going on in South Africa are terrible. There is absolutely no doubt about that. But genocide is a systematic effort to exterminate a class of people, and to my knowledge that is not what we have currently in South Africa. I think the effort to link apartheid and genocide confuses the meaning of the words and adds an emotional dimension to the discussion of apartheid which doesn't make it easier to actually discuss it intelligently.

***Spectator:* Do you regret having made these comments?**

Carovano: I believe that the distinction between genocide and apartheid is a critical one and I do not regret at all trying to make that distinction. I did, however, use a word which I regret having used. I said that attempting to equate various forms of discrimination to the Holocaust was to trivialize the Holocaust. I think it was ill-advised of me to use the word 'trivialize' and I would not use it again. I know that I offended some people in the process and I have apologized or have tried to apologize to those people.

***Spectator:* In your meeting with the representatives of the five organizations which sponsored the sit in, you referred to an alleged rape on campus as "not a simple rape." What exactly did you mean by this statement? People have questioned what you meant by "simple?"**

Carovano: The facts regarding the incident about which students seem to want to refer from time to time are much more complicated than they are assuming. There is no way that we can publicly discuss the facts of that incident. I find it irresponsible of students to be jumping to conclusions about an incident that they do not know the facts of and level accusations at people when they are not fully aware of the facts.

***Spectator:* It has been said that while he was away on business, Dean Endy was not alerted to the crisis situation. Why wasn't he contacted?**

Carovano: Dean Jervis is responsible for student discipline. Dan O'Leary is responsible for the security force of the College. The two of them were conferring regularly with me. We thought that that was an adequate group to deal with the issues at hand.

Both students and faculty have criticized Carovano's handling of last week's events.

***Spectator:* It has also been said that Dean Endy called in several faculty members and threatened "separating" them from the College. Is this true?**

Carovano: He has talked with some faculty members but the rumors of a threat of separation are totally inaccurate.

***Spectator:* Have you called in any faculty members to discuss their actions?**

Carovano: I have not.

***Spectator:* Your critics have called you a racist and a poor administrator. How would you defend yourself to their verbal attacks?**

Carovano: The only thing I guess I can do is to ask for the evidence that my accusers have to support their accusations. Without that evidence to consider, there's very little I can do to defend myself.

***Spectator:* Do you think that Hamilton as an institution has problems of racism and sexism?**

Carovano: I think that racism and sexism is a part of America and I think Hamilton College is a microcosm of America. We face and try to deal with the same problems here as everyone else in this country.

***Spectator:* Do you think that you have adequately addressed these issues?**

Carovano: I suppose until they are eliminated from our society no one will think they've been adequately addressed. We are working on them— perhaps not as effectively as we should —but we are certainly attempting to improve the situation.

***Spectator:* How is the College planning on handling the cancellation of Minority Weekend?**

Carovano: The responsibility for the College's admission effort rests with the members of the Admissions Office.

***Spectator:* What were your impressions of the Friday night symposium on Racism and Sexism?**

Carovano: I think some very useful views were presented. I also believe that not everyone — from off the campus in particular — is as sensitive to language as people in academic communities are. I think there were occasions when some of our speakers could have been a good deal more sensitive to language. I also think that many of the people in the audience were looking for things to be critical of and refusing to hear things that were very important and should have been heard and given more serious thought.

***Spectator:* Many people are outraged at the statements that were made by the speakers. Do you view these statements as being racist and sexist?**

Carovano: I guess I can only repeat what I said a moment ago which is that I think that many people from off the campus — and I would include in that group some of our speakers — are not as sensitive to language as many of the people in academic communities are. I don't think that that different level of sensitivity necessarily translates into racist or sexist attitudes on the part of everyone off the Hill.

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Administrators grilled at faculty meeting

by T.A. Kuck

The faculty gathered to discuss the repercussions of last week's student occupation of Buttrick Hall at a special meeting Wednesday afternoon. The meeting was informational in nature as there was to be no official record and no voting on the agenda for Monday's faculty meeting.

Faculty members and student observers began to file into the Science Auditorium slightly before four o'clock and soon filled every seat and much of the floor space. The unexpectedly large numbers of students prompted a motion to close the meeting to all observers. To pass, it required a vote of one third of the faculty. An oral vote proved indecisive. The motion was rejected by secret ballot and observers were allowed to stay.

Dean of Students Jane Jervis began the discussion with a "simple chronicle of events" through the eyes of the administration. In it, she revealed that on Wednesday the administration had come into possession of a flyer which allegedly called for an overnight protest at Buttrick rather than the two hour event the Coalition agreed upon at earlier meetings. The flyer played an important role in the administrations decision to lock the Buttrick offices in anticipation of the protest, according to Jervis. She cited " the impossibility of working in an office filled with people" but added that the situation was "not that kind of grave emergency that would require calling in of police."

"My actions are reviewable, but not by faculty and students."

Pres. Carovano

Jervis explained the decision of the administration to pursue the course or internal discipline by stating "court procedures are interminable and slow.' She reiterated that although the administration had "a strong wish" to clear the building, it wanted "to avoid the necessity of police intervention." Judiciary Board action requires one week to convene and, she continued, it was "the administration's judgement that this was not a normal disciplinary matter."

Jervis's chronicle of events was followed by questions from the faculty. When asked about the appeals process available to the suspended students, she responded, that "Because the decision came from the president, there are no internal appeal proceedings open." President Carovano responded as well by saying that although there is no internal appeal process for the decision this "does not mean it is beyond review." He explained that he will report to the Board of Trustees in December and "will make it possible for those students to communicate with the Board either in writing or in person." Later in the meeting Carovano reiterated that "My actions are reviewable, but not by faculty and students."

Professor of Physics Philip Pearle pointed out what he perceives as a process in the administration's actions and asked, "where is the justification for what was done?" Jervis, quoting *A Guide to the Policies and Procedures of Hamilton College,* responded "responsibility for student discipline is assigned by the Board of Trustees to the President and Faculty. . .the right of the President to decide finally on any student disciplinary matter is not precluded by the provisions outlined below." Pearle responded that he was "not aware that the faculty was involved." When he asked if the word "finally" did not imply the proper initial process, the President replied, "That will be for a lawyer to decide."

"My perspective is unique and history will be my judge."

Pres. Carovano

The issue of the administration's possible entrapment of the protesting students concerned many of the assembled faculty. Peter Rabinowitz, an Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, felt it necessary to add several more events to Dean Jervis' opening chronicle. Rabinowitz included in his description of last week's protest the personal delivery of pizzas to the protestors by the Assistant Dean of Students Michael McGee and the failure of the campus security to warn others that Buttrick was closed.

Carol Bellini-Sharp, Associate Professor of Theatre, later pointed out that, although the administration knew of the impending protest, it never locked the exterior doors of Buttrick as it did with the Admissions Office last spring.

Approximately half-way through the meeting, Carovano rose to address the faculty and summarize his position. He said "people may disagree with my position, but my perspective is unique and history will be my judge." "You know damn well that no one has to have a sit-in to meet with me," he continued, "I will meet with anyone, anytime, anywhere if it is humanly possible." Stating that the suspensions would not be lifted, nor would a Judiciary Board hearing be granted, he informed the faculty that voting for such a motion would be unproductive.

In reference to a possible vote of no confidence, Carovano asked the faculty members first to "put on my hat and think about how willing and able they are to do what I do." After speaking Carovano put on his overcoat and began to exit, but remained when faculty suggested he stay to further defend his position.

Maria-Regina Kecht, Assistant Professor of Russian and German, requested an explanation of why other forms of rowdiness do not result in as severe and immediate as that imposed upon the protestors. Jervis replied that "it is done in many cases by people we cannot identify." She admitted that "we're not very good at it and I'm not going to pretend we are," but added that the protest was "a group action, which, I believe, puts it in another category." Kecht then asked if any individuals were suspended in an incident which resulted in the closure of a fraternity last year. To this Jervis replied, "I don't think so."

Professor Robert Simon and Associate Professor Patsy Manfredi, both of the philosophy department expressed the concern that the negative repercussions of the protest itself were being ignored. According to Simon "we're only doing half our job" if the "chilling effect" of the protest on free and open discussion is not addressed.

Manfredi expressed his disapproval of the sit-in saying, "I wouldn't want students to occupy my office in Courtyard South for something I said in class." He stressed the importance of keeping the issues of due process and proper penalty separate from the sit-in itself.

A question from Associate Professor of Comparative Literature Nancy Rabinowitz revealed that President Carovano had been between flights and on campus the first night of the sit-in, not out of town as many of the faculty had previously assumed. When asked whether any meetings or overtures occurred at that time, Carovano replied, "No".

One of the final concerns of the faculty to be addressed at the meeting was the surveillance carried out by the administration during the protest. The use of video cameras to record evidence was questioned by Bellini-Sharp. The administration justified this use as being for known, group action where there were potential discipline problems. Bellini-Sharp stated "I do not know of other events, such as parties, which require the use of video cameras by security." Jervis replied that the administration has authorized security to use video cameras from the college's Audio-Visual Department and is considering equipping them personally. Bellini-Sharp then asked if it was true that faculty members seen at the site of the protest had been called up by the administration and spoken to.

Dean of the College Melvin Endy admitted that he had met with faculty who were there as "participants, supporters, or bystanders", but stated that no "investigatory work had been done."

Local mass media not deterred by the closing off of the campus.

A crowd awaits the outcome of the Monday's meeting between President Carovano and the protestors **(see p. 4 for story)**

The protestors listen to possible consequences of the temporary injunction.

Carovano explains

continued from p. 2

***Spectator:* What, then, does that say about the choice of speakers?**

Carovano: If the only speakers that we want to bring to this hill are people who speak exactly the same language as people who are here, share exactly the same views as people who are here, we're going to limit ourselves in ways which I think will not be constructive. I should note, for example, that a coalition of organizations brought a speaker to the campus a few weeks ago who talked about pornography and publications, and pornography and the First Amendment of The Constitution. Many of the things that she said about the rights guaranteed under the Constitution's First Amendment I would take exception to. But I certainly do not believe that she shouldn't speak here as a consequence.

***Spectator:* Is it true that the College is seriously considering having Security use video cameras for everyday use?**

Carovano: I'm not aware of any such plan.

***Spectator:* Dean Jervis said at the faculty meeting Wednesday "We are actually considering having the Security use video cameras." Do you think this is necessary?**

Carovano: We will use video cameras when we have student disturbances in order to record what is going on.

***Spectator:* What kind of *real* voice do you think the students have on this campus? For the past two years, students have protested and protested and then they finally do secure a meeting with the trustees. Yet in two years the students claim that they have not had any concrete gains. What concrete gains do you think they have been granted?**

Carovano: That's a very broad question. There are all kinds of issues on which students might have an interest. For example, they have an interest in the calendar in the curriculum. The decisions on the calendar are being made primarily by the faculty. I wouldn't think it would be appropriate to suggest the students' lack of input in decisions there are somehow my fault or the Trustees' fault. It is true that students and faculty have been expressing their views on divestment which is an area over which the Trustees are responsible. Students and faculty have talked to Trustees on several occasions. They have been heard but the trustees do not agree. And because someone does not agree with you does not mean that you haven't been heard and taken seriously.

***Spectator:* What effect do you think a possible faculty vote of no confidence in your actions would have on your position at the College?**

Carovano: That's impossible for me to speculate on.

***Spectator:* How or will you be able to continue operating as Chief Administrator, considering what has happened in the last week?**

Carovano: The events of the last week have been significant events but their full significance will only be known with the passage of time.

The Hamilton 12:

Students explain actions

by Carol Turano

Last Thursday afternoon the group of Hamilton College students sitting-in at Buttrick Hall was warned that if they did not leave the building, they would be subject to separation from the college. Twelve students and one recent alumnus decided to stay. As a result the twelve students were suspended from Hamilton for winter and spring terms, 1987.

The students include: Gur Melamede '88, Brad Albert '88, Greg Shin '87, Demetri Orlando '87, Cathleen Perry '89, Molly Mysliwiec '87, Jake Callard '87, Amy Rozgonyi '87, Julie Jones '88, Johnette Trail '88, Michael Tillman '88, and Michelle Paninos '88. *In the article below they give their reasons for remaining in Buttrick and share their feelings on their punishment and on Hamilton.*

The general consensus among the twelve students is that they do not feel they were doing anything wrong by remaining in Buttrick. Amy Rozgonyi '87, says, "We knew we were going to be suspended. We didn't feel we were doing anything wrong — we certainly didn't feel we were creating a state of great emergency."

Demetri Orlando '87 states his reason for remaining in Buttrick saying, "I stayed in that building because I needed to be with other people who are also fed up with the system."

The students were protesting against racism, sexism, and homophobia on the Hamilton campus, as well as investments in South Africa according to Amy Rozgonyi. Rozgonyi explains that after the protestors were warned of suspension, "The group as a whole decided to leave the building. Thirteen individuals made their own decisions to stay."

Jake Callard '87, believes that the incident in Buttrick became a "power struggle" between the administration and the students. He feels that the administration did not want to listen to the protestors concerns and negotiate because that would be "admitting that the students have a say in the running of the school."

Mysliwiec states that she stayed because "I just didn't want to play their game anymore. Some one had to press this far. I am amazed that Carovano didn't even call to talk to us. We were there to communicate, not to play, not to be silenced, not to ignore the sexism, the racism, and the homophobia on this campus which seriously 'disrupt' our education."

Perry comments, "I did not remain in Buttrick to be suspended. I stayed because I felt that I was right in my reasons for being there. It has been proven many times before that dealing with the administration along 'normal lines of communication' is ineffective, and it is time to deal seriously with the problems here."

"When Dean Jervis was suspending us, I wasn't really thinking about being suspended," says Callard. "We had made our personal decisions, and this was the result. Seeing people I knew torn apart inside — between compromising what they believed in and leaving their friends, under threat of suspension — was very real. People were crying because they didn't know what was right — their hearts or their heads."

Callard continues that he felt protest to be the only way he could effectively voice his opinions and concerns. Jones believes that the administration should not be able to "push around" students. She says, "I am not one to suffer at the hands of others, and more specifically I am not one to tolerate racism and the degradation of my people. I felt I was forced to act."

The twelve students feel that President Carovano was not justified in issuing a suspension. Many believe the entire incident could have been avoided if Carovano had agreed to talk with them, over the phone if necessary.

Callard states that "as President of a small, liberal arts college, Carovano should have made the effort to really communicate." Johnette Traill '88 adds: "My only regret at this point is that the President did not see fit to speak to us when we were in the building. His priority should be to help students."

"The suspensions are unfair and exceedingly severe," asserts Cathy Perry '89. Mysliwiec, angered by the President's actions, claims: "He has no right to remove my body or take away my voice, when he isn't even here to listen to it. In fact, he has an obligation as President to hear it."

Callard points out that there is a contradiction in viewing the sit-in at Buttrick as a "grave emergency" and then allowing the students to remain on campus for the remainder of the semester. He states: "Carovano has acted as though he were President of the U.S. reacting to violent terrorism."

The suspended students hope that the events of the past week will have a positive effect on the Hamilton community. Greg Shin '87 believes that "there is a sheep mentality at Hamilton. Too many believe that those who hold power are those who are right."

Mysliwiec and Perry both feel that the important issue now is to address the sexism, racism, and homophobia that permeate this campus. The issue of the suspension should not "take over" and become more important than other issues, Rozgonyi adds. Hamilton should become a "truly coeducational community" in which everyone feels equal and safe.

"We were there [Buttrick] to *communicate*," Mysliwiec asserts. "We want a democracy with student input, not a dictatorship," adds Julie Jones '88.

Michelle Paninos, '88 hopes that in light of recent events students will think seriously about what it means to be at Hamilton. She says, "Hamilton is a tiny little microcosm where we all live for four years. What we learn in classes about individuality and freedom of expression should be applied here and now."

Jones urges students to "stand up for your rights." She continues, "I'd like to make it clear that I'm not a martyr, and in no way did I want to be suspended, but I had to do what I did. I've put a great deal of time, and my parents have put a great deal of money into my education here at Hamilton. It would be extremely unfortunate for all of that to be wasted."

According to Michael Tilman '88, people have not been paying enough attention to problems and issues on campus. He sees positive result from his suspension taking place, saying, "I would hope that our suspension would at the very least get people to see what is going on in the administration. It was time to institute some changes, and I thought I had to make a sacrifice to get anything done. Hopefully general apathy will be conquered — people have at least been asking questions and debating amongst themselves about recent events."

Tilman believes that if enough people realize what is happening on campus, "things will eventually change for the better."

Policies Procedures

by Jean Leverich

During the events of the past week, there was a sudden rise in discussion of Hamilton's *A Guide to the Policies and Procedures of Hamilton College*. Many of the passages in the Guide are ambiguous and there have been many interpretations over clauses concerning procedures dealing with student discipline and whether or not they allow for the President's executive action of suspension. Following are the relevant passages and views considering what those passages mean.

"Hamilton College reserves the right, at any time, to suspend for any period or to separate from the College any student whose presence on the campus is, in the sole judgement of the College, detrimental to the best interests of the College. Neither the College, nor any of its trustees, officers, faculty, or administrative staff, shall be subject to any liability whatsoever on account of such suspension or separation."

(A Guide to the Policies and Procedures of Hamilton College, p.4)

Dean of Students Jane L. Jervis defined "College" as referring to Presidential action. She added, "I don't think I have the right to decide 'best interests'." When asked what she understood "detrimental to the best interests of the College" to mean, Jervis responded, "That's pretty vague and subject to interpretation."

David O. Stoner '87, Chair of the Judiciary Board, perceives the College as "the student body at large", defining College from a "utilitarian viewpoint of the greatest good for the greatest number."

According to Stoner, the student protest "wasn't in the best interest of the College. A protest alienates and intimidates students who don't see the issue in the same way the protestors do. It's derisive to the College and instead of joining the community, splits the community."

Ezra Kopelowitz '88, president of the Student Assembly, explains, "right now, the way it's set up, the trustees are the school." The trustees have, he says, "delegated that power to different bodies and basically when the President, the representative of the trustees, sees fit, he withdraws that delegation of power and responsibility, as in the case of the J-Board.

Kopelowitz cannot say whether the student sit-in was detrimental to the best interests of the College because "it's too ambiguous. Ths issues are just not clear. If the business office was open and operating, the protest would have disturbed the running of the office, but the school decided to close the building. Given that, there is no clear-cut answer." Kopelowitz says that the majority of the student body feels that the student protestors were disruptive. Jervis agrees, "Clearly the intent of people who go into a building and don't leave, is to disrupt, to interfere with people's lives. The argument that people present that they don't mean to disrupt anything seems specious to me."

"I don't understand how the faculty plays a role" —J. Jervis

Peter J. Rabinowitz, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature says that the College "certainly does not mean the President acting unilaterally." He defines the College as "the president, the deans, the appropriate organizations." Of the passage which refers to the best interests of the College, Rabinowitz says, "that has nothing to do with the procedures" instead that explains "that if you get kicked out of the College you don't get your money back."

Responsibility for student discipline is assigned by the Board of Trustees to the President and Faculty. In practice, the Dean of Students bears administrative responsibility for student discipline. The right of the President to decide finally on any student disciplinary matter is not precluded by provisions outlined below"

(Guide, p. 14).

Jervis explains that "last week President Carovano made a decision that he was going to deal by presidential fiat and in effect took back the delegation" of power from the faculty, faculty committee and student organizations such as the J-Board. Jervis also sees the normal role of the faculty in student discipline as minimal. She says that before the "recent modification in which we put faculty on the J-Board, the faculty didn't have a role int he procedures except in the appeals board."

Aside from the appeals board, she adds, faculty sit on a Committee of Student Activities, which "is the only other mechanism I can think of whereby the faculty exercise responsibility over student discipline."

In last week's Crisis, Rabinowitz feels that "the faculty was very specifically left out." Kopelowitz finds the guide's statement "confusing because it seems to me that the administration handles student discipline." Stoner does not "really see how the faculty enters into a normal judiciary case except for the three faculty on the J-Board." He agrees with Kopelowitz that normally "the Dean of Students is the one who takes administrative responsibility for student discipline, and thus in turn, the J-Board does."

Jervis says, "I don't understand how the faculty plays a role" in the events of last week. "You'd have to ask Carovano." She also states, "The President has decided they [the faculty] don't play a role."

Kopelowitz understands the "finally" clause to mean "Basically, the Presi-

continued on p. 6

Students and faculty gather to hear results of Monday's meeting.

IDC presents survey results

The events of the past week have led many student organizations to state publicly their positions with respect to the recent suspension of 12 students. The consensus at the November 18 meeting of the Inter-Dormitory Council was that although these groups had announced their opinions, the student body itself had yet to be consulted. The IDC poll was designed to accurately gauge campus opinion.

The poll consisted of five questions accompanied by a brief summary of recent events and two excerpts from the Hamilton Guide to Policies and Proceedures. The summary was compiled from two chronologies - one published by the Student Assembly, and another composed at the sit-in in Buttrick Hall on Friday, November 14. Eyewitnesses were also consulted. The partial excerpts included with the poll corresponded to the regulations the administration cited during the course of the protest.

The five questions are printed below. The Liechert Scale with responses on a scale of one to seven, was used. This method made compilation relatively easy but allowed students to express a range of feelings on the issue. Every attempt was made not to bias the questions.

IDC reps distributed polls to all dorm rooms and to the private society houses on November 19. They were collected and results compiled on November 20. Our thanks to Professor Arthur Sanders for his help with this effort.

Of the 1615 polls distributed, 821 were returned. The frequency of each response to the five questions is listed. To gauge general campus opinion on each question, we grouped options one through three as "Disagree" and five through seven as "Agree". Option four was termed "neutral".

Question One: Public order was threatened by the action of the protestors.

Disagree Strongly						Agree Strongly	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	No Op
231	124	63	45	89	101	138	15
29%	15%	8%	5.6%	13%	17%		

51% of the sample felt that "public order" was not threatened by the protest; 42% felt it was and 5.5% were neutral.

Question Two: The College's closing of Buttrick was not necessary given the action of the protestors.

Disagree Strongly						Agree Strongly	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	No Op
146	114	74	47	72	113	231	29
18%	14%	9%	6%	9%	14%	29%	4%

43% felt that the closing of Buttrick was warranted; 51% felt it was not; 5.7% were neutral.

Question Three: I support the suspension of the 12 students in light of the above information.

Disagree Strongly						Agree Strongly	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	No Op
346	87	41	33	57	77	179	0
43%	11%	5%	4%	7%	10%	22%	0%

58% of our sample did not support the suspension of the students. 41% supported the suspension and 4% remained neutral.

Question Four: The 12 suspensions should be revoked in favor of alternative disciplinary action within the college (i.e. J-Board).

Disagree Strongly						Agree Strongly	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	No Op
173	83	39	33	36	75	347	28
22%	10%	5%	4%	4%	9%	43%	3%

58% felt that the suspensions should be repealed and disciplinary action with the the college should be pursued as an alternative. 40% objected to this proposal. 4% were neutral.

Question Five: Page 4 of the Guide to Public Policy states: "Hamilton College reserves the right at any time to suspend for any period or to separate from the college any student whose presence on the campus is, in the sole judgement of the college, detrimental to the best interests of the college." This policy should be changed.

Disagree Strongly						Agree Strongly	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	No Op
233	110	51	46	48	90	195	37
29%	14%	6%	6%	6%	11%	24%	5%

50% felt that this policy should remain unchanged. 40% felt that it should be altered and 5.6% were neutral. There seemed to be a great deal of confusion over this question and this passage. Most comments and questions felt that the term "college" warrranted further definition. Others wondered what or who constituted the "sole judgement of the college." Still others wondered what the "best interests of the college" were.

Of the people who felt public order was threatened, 76% agreed with the suspensions and 24% disagreed. Meanwhile, of the people who felt that the protestors did not threaten public order, 87% objected to the suspension while 13% supported them.

Our results are subject to error due to inaccuracies in the questions as well as biases which may have arisen in our poll. Any survey of this type is also subject to liminted participation. Results may have been different if a greater portion of the student body had responded.

In general, campus support seems to be in favor of the protestors and the 12 suspended students, however the majority is not nearly as large as some have claimed. The IDC's position on this issue awaits consideration at our next meeting.

Protestors embrace after suspensions are announced.

Carovano meets coalition

by Mark Hamel

The Black and Latin Student Union, Young Progressive Democrats, Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Women's Center, and Hamiltonians for Divestment, (under the name "The Hamilton Coalition") each sent five representatives to meet with President Carovano last Monday, in order to discuss the events which led to the suspension of twelve students and to issue a set of five "inter-connected" demands. Deans Endy, O'Leary and Jervis, as well as the twelve suspended students, and a group of involved faculty members, were present at the meeting which, according to Jervis, "was spent talking about only the first two points the students prevented."

More members from each organization within the coalition stated their sentiments on the past actions and explained their involvement.

The five demands as fiven by the coalation were as follows: An immediate and public apology by Carovano to be approved by the BLSU for his recent statements along with the immediate reinstatement of the 12 students. The second demand called for a new symposium to be estabished and a specific date set, with the speakers approved by the BLSU, GLA, Women's Center, and La Vanguardia. All financing would be the administration's responsibility.

The coalition also demanded the President do everything possible to implement the African-American studies program and actually recruit and hire the appropriate tenure track faculty members to direct it. The hiring and recruiting process must be completed by February '87 so the program will be ready to operate in '87-'88.

In addition, all letters in response to the past actions be removed from all student and faculty files. Finally, the group demanded to be given by noon on Tuesday.

The demands were presented as a "package deal" so that if one was not accepted, then the coalition would reject them all.

President Carovano was "unable to consider all the demands as linked" according to Jennifer Wynn, '89. "The meeting was somewhat productive, but it did not go as well as we would have liked, based on the fact that the twelve students have not been reinstated," she said.

After the coalition made their presentation, the demand of an apology was discussed and eventually Carovano did agree to their request. The issue of the reinstatement of the students dominated the rest of the meeting. Carovano did not consent to reinstatement and for the next two hours arguments were made by both sides.

"Finally we got frustrated and decided that our talk wasn't going any further. Without the reinstatement,none of the demands would mean anything," said Coalition member Tracey Clarke '90. She added that "we thought that Carovano was more receptive than we had anticipated, but he is still very stubborn in even reconsidering the punishment."

No concrete agreements resulted from Monday's meeting, but "a lot of necessary things were expressed and that was useful," Jervis said.

The other faculty members present took on the role of "moderators" of the proceedings. Madanna Hettinger said, "We didn't want to become 'go-betweens' for the administration and the coalition. We tried to stay in focus so that the tense moments did not become counter-productive."

When asked for his opinion on the action, faculty member Ben Ramsey said "I felt that it was reasonably constructive. There were some difficult moments, but overall things were heard on both sides. It is my opinion that the President is intransigent. I would hope he will review what was said at the meeting to influence his future final decision on the suspensions."

Legalities

continued from p. 5

dent can do what he wants." Jervis acknowledges that the word "finally" can be interpreted in either a temporal or hierarchical sense, admitting, "I don't know what the intent of the word is."

Kopelowitz believes that Carovano could either make a presidential decision after the procedure is carried out or make a decision without using the procedures stated in the *Guide*.

Stoner interprets the sentence to mean that "the President has final say" and "can side-step the judiciary board." Rabinowitz, however, disagrees, saying that the sentence "means that after the whole procedure is gone through, the President has the power to make his own decision."

Jervis says "The President said his mind is made up and he doesn't see any reason to go through the procedures if he's going to come to the same conclusions in the end."

"Failure to comply with a penalty assigned by the Dean of Students shall result in charges being brought to the Judiciary Board. . . Disciplinary decisions rendered by the Dean of Students may be appealed" (*Guide*, p. 15).

Jervis explains this passage saying, "the President sees two ways to go, through the procedures or make a presidential decision to act, therefore the rest of the procedure does not apply." Stoner adds that "The Dean of Students didn't go in and handle it by herself."

While Kopelowitz believes that either course of action taken by the President is considered due process and that the President has the "right to act as he sees fit," Kopelowitz also feels that "any punishment handed down in the context of our community must be put up to the community for scrutiny and that vehicle is the J-Board." Carovano's suspension of the twelve students without due process and appeal "is not a reflection of the community's judgment," says Kopelowitz. "The implicatons to the community are pretty intense and that's why I think it's important we have a J-Board for proper reflection of community."

"the communication was minimal"
—D. Stoner,
J-Board Chair

Jervis says that because the decisions were not rendered by the Dean of Students, the President's actions are appealable to the trustees but not through the College. "Carovano," says Jervis, "serves at the pleasure of the Board" and has sent letters to the suspended students informing them that the decision is appealable to the Board.

"We recognize that in matters of this sort [maintenance of public order] in particular, full and prompt communication among all components of our college community is highly desirable, and that to the extent time and circumstances permit, such communication should precede the exercise of the authority, discretion, and responsibilities granted and imposed in the following rules, regulations, and procedures" (*Guide*, p. 42).

Stoner feels that passage is "pretty obvious" and that Carovano did not comply with it. He feels that although it may be "highly desirable," this passage does not mean communication is a provision for the President's action. He acknowledges that the President "didn't come back and talk to the students, the communication was minimal."

Kopelowitz believes that time and circumstances did permit communication and that Carovano violated the passage grossly. "Communication did not exist," says Kopelowitz. "I don't think he really considered the implications." Although Carovano claims the students were disruptive, Kopelowitz believes that whether or not the students were disruptive "was never tested."

Rabinowitz thinks that communication was not even attempted: "It seems unfortuante that the President who was in town on Wednesday night and could have diffused the whole situation, at that time chose to lie about his whereabouts to the students and faculty in such a way that a difficult situation was converted into a major crisis. One can only wonder about what motives might have led to such a decision.

Rabinowitz asks if the College is concerned with communication, did the President "go out of his way to avoid communication?" Rabinowitz notes that the meeting scheduled for last Thursday for the Committee of Student Activities was canceled, and that "ironically, the subject was to be freedom of speech."

"Not withstanding the pendancy of termination of criminal or civil proceedings with reference to the same conduct, by independent or parallel action the College may bring students, faculty, staff, and other members of the community before appropriate collegiate bodies for such actions as individual cases may warrant. *(Guide, p. 44)*.

Kopelowitz feels that the "appropriate Collegiate bodies" include the judiciary board although the word "may" once again implies that more than one choice of action exists.

"The President," says Jervis, "has preempted the procedures and whether the prempture was a proper procedure or not will be determined by the Board of the Trustees or the courts."

Rabinowitz says "it's clear from the passage is the understanding is that the College will go through the legal bodies." He adds that *Guide to the Policies and Procedures at Hamilton College* is a "long, complicated book of rules and the President has thrown it all away."

Stoner feels that the President was correct in preempting the procedures: "Although the suspension of twelve students is a bit severe, I feel the President's actions were justified according to the laws set down by Hamilton College.

Kopelowitz disagrees, saying "My personal feelings are that the President's action negates the sense of community that they've tried so hard to build." He wonders "how can I feel that the Student Assembly is any representation of student opinion" if the students and faculty have no power.

Letters

Suppressed views

To the Editor:

The suspension Friday of twelve Hamilton students is a disgrace to the college and the most reprehensible action the administration could have taken. At a college which condones daily the discrimination of women and blacks by supporting a fraternity system, isn't it ironic that students who wished only a protest against these same evils of racism and sexism are suspended while the perpetrators of these same crimes are exalted as being exemplary students because of their silence.

Does the administration of this college wish to completely depoliticize the campus so that repression of blacks and women can flourish? If so, they're doing a great job.

The president, in the meeting Monday with a coalition of students protesting these suspensions, continually made reference to the rational (referring to his own) and emotional (the coalition's) response to racism and sexism on this campus. Prejudices are irrational. They, by definiton, do not imply any thought processes. How is one supposed to react? Set up a symposium where the speakers themselves make racial slurs; a symposium where the issues of sexism and homophobia are not even addressed? In designing such a symposium, I don't think the administration used much thought (never mind compassion). The students' decision to meet with the president on Wednesday was made by a group, not only willing to think rationally, but to go a step further, to act on their convictions. The decision to suspend those students may have involved a lot of conversation but it was the decision of a scared (i.e. emotional) administration. These suspensions are helping the administration not only to avoid any further political protest but to preclude any further rational political discourse. This punishment far exceeds the "crimes" committed by the students. It shows the administration's desire to silence the voice of oppressed groups so as to keep the college comfortable for the white, anti-intellectual men.

Charles O'Connell '87

D'Costa displeased

To the Editor:

It is always sad to see absurdities and untruths cloud the arguments connected with a good cause. Your issue of November 14, 1986, quotes an unnamed member of the Hamiltonians for Divestment as saying: "Jean D'Costa does not consider herself to be black. She is Jamaican and that is normally considered to be a very different thing" (Hamel and Larson report headlined "Buttrick closed as students sit in", p. 4). The first statement is simply untrue and the second patently absurd.

Sincerely,
Jean D'Costa

The Right speaks

To the Editor:

We wish to comment on last week's sit-in at Buttrick, for the time has come for members of the Right to speak their minds. Being strong believers in the Constitution, we openly advocate the use of freedom of speech, the right to assemble, and other rights invested into ALL Americans. The proceedings of last week, however, exceeded those rights. When one's freedom (here: to protest) infringes upon the rights of others, the right is violated. When this happens, an alternative way of expressing one's beliefs must be found.

We disagree with racism, sexism, and religious discrimination, and have respect for the way the students at Buttrick used their rights to express their feeling about a moral wrong. We can not, however, respect a group that restricts our rights, our freedom to move about, and our security. After all, it is a privilege to come to Hamilton, not an innate right. We all belong here and should do what we came to do: to get an education.

For the unfortunate thirteen who were suspended, we praise their courage and wish the College hadn't been forced to take action against them. If someone breaks a law, however, he or she should pay the price. Warning was given before the action was taken, and the thirteen must endure the consequences of their actions. Thus, we cannot sympathize with them, but do respect that they stood behind their beliefs. Let us point out: Hamilton is doing the exact same thing. Hamilton students, it is your duty to speak out, no matter what your political orientation. The initiative and channels of communication and thought on our campus can not be ceded to the Left.

A final note. As American citizens, we are born with many automatic rights. In a sense, we are able to make use of the system before we know what it is. Now, on the other hand, to make America work, we must put something into the system before we can take out anything. We ask any of those involved if they would be willing to serve in the military in order to maintain the guarantee of freedom provided by the Constitution. Before asking for more freedom of speech than has already been granted, think about how your contributions can improve the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Richard V. Halbert '90
George O. Schneller '90

Authority questioned

To the Editor:

I am only a first year student at Hamilton, and I have never had any previous interest in the divestment cause, except for my own personal views. However, the events of last week have caused me to look seriously into what has been happening at Hamilton between the protestors and the administration. At this point, the debate is not whether or not Hamilton supports racism, sexism, or apartheid. The focus has shifted from these issues to perhaps a more important one; an issue that hits home. Do we, as students in the Hamilton community, have the right to free, peaceful expression? Does the administration have the right to determine whether we have that freedom?

It does sound extremely serious accusing the administration of denying individuals their rights. But it is also a serious matter suspending students because they were involved in an act of conscious civil disobedience. Those students and many other protestors held such strong beliefs on the issues that they were willing to go out and fight for what they felt was right. The administration deemed it a disruption of "the activities of the college," when in reality it was not impossible for business at Buttrick to proceed as usual. I feel the resulting action taken by President Carovano was totally inappropriate for a peaceful demonstration.

There was once a place in America where dogs and whips were being used to quell peaceful protests. Such practices existed during the Civil Rights movement, and they still exist in other parts of the world today. A form of this is here at Hamilton. Mr. Carovano labelled this situation an "emergency", allowing him to override the Judiciary Board. He suspended students without any due process. President Carovano has the power to suspend them if he thinks that the situation warranted it. Where was he when this crisis occurred, and why didn't he put his faith in the judiciary processes within the school? If this crisis was so important as to be called an emergency, why didn't he rearrange his priorities and come judge for himself instead of acting on the reports of his comrades? It would be an entirely different situation of there were riots, vandalism or other, more criminal protests. But extreme punishment was given because of peaceful demonstration. It is my opinion that this unjust action is an act of martial law—temporary rule by militant authorities over the civilian population when civilian authority has broken down. Where is the J-Board? Is President Carovano making more chaos of this than is necessary? His actions have disrupted the Hamilton community; are you going to sit back and let this happen to your campus? Is this just the President's way of eliminating protests altogether? Will anyone ever be able to peacefully protest on this campus without the threat of this totalitarian suspension?

Sincerely,
P. Martin Schweighofer

Contradictory policies

To the Editor:

Disappointment, anger, and frustration best describe my reaction to the events of last week. In my four years at Hamilton never have I witnessed such a blatant disregard of the First Amendment and such a closed minded attitude. Not only has the administration proved itself racist and sexist through the comments at the debate, but it also proved it can and will do anything possible to suppress *any* opinions other than its own.

It has come to my attention that the operations in Buttrick Hall were ceased before the protestors arrived. Then did the protestors actually interfere with "normal operations"? It appears that the administration, in anticipation of the protest, closed down Buttrick in order to claim that the protestors "interfered", thereby justifying their suspension. The offices were closed, yet the exterior doors were not. If our administration anticipated a conflict, wouldn't they have locked all doors to Buttrick? They claim that those doors aren't normally locked until 4:30, and that they were only following ordinary procedures. But on the other hand, the entire defense of the suspension rests on the fact that these were not ordinary circumstances. It is almost like the administration invited the students in, gave them pizzas, and then suspended them.

Throughout our years at Hamilton, we, as students, are taught to question, to explore, to challenge existing ideas, intending to improve our society. Hamilton thus prepares its students to be the leaders of the next generation, teaching us how to think in all aspects of life. In the course catalogue it states, "The Faculty believes that liberal learning, in its breadth and depth, is the appropriate foundation for society's leaders and that it is in the reconciliation of the universal with the particular that idealism comes to terms with reality." Yet the actions of past Friday contradict everything for which a liberal arts college stands: the right to formulate ideas and express them. Our catalogue goes on, "The College seeks to move students beyond the acquisition of specific knowledge and skills to a wider understanding of themselves, their environment, society, and the manner in which all three interrelate." The students at Buttrick were expressing their ideas in the most effective and direct manner. Yes, one might claim that they should have expressed their ideas in a different form, say a written request to the administration to discuss current issues. But would this have had any real impact? No. Both the administration and the students are aware of this.

Due process? Why bother? We as students have been overlooked, so who are we to attempt to claim a constitutionally given right? I understand that in certain disciplinary cases, the President has the ability to override a Judiciary Board hearing, usually when it is in the best interest of the College (administration, faculty, and students). However, the campus atmosphere at the moment suggests that the faculty and students are generally in agreement over this issue disfavoring the President's actions, and that it is the administration who used their authority only with *their* interests in mind. Was the faculty consulted about this issue? No, this "emergency situation" called for immediate action, and the administration did not think it could afford to waste its time.

The suspension has been adjusted to the end of the semester. Now how is this consistent with the administration's claim that these twelve students are hazardous to the campus atmosphere? If they were enough of a hazard to our campus to suspend them in the first place, then how can the administration rationalize its decision to change the punishment to begin a month from now?

At the informal faculty meeting on Wednesday afternoon, President Carovano admitted that he was in fact *on campus* when the protestors initially asked to meet with him last Wednesday. Instead of adhering to his "open door" policy, he chose to stay home and then leave the following morning for a fund raising event in New York. We now know where our President's priorities lie. If this had been such an "emergency situation" that required the suspension of these students, then why wasn't it enough of an "emergency situation" for him to stay here?

Where do we go from here? I cannot even begin to guess. I though I knew this College, and it now appears that I do not. Indeed, we can all crawl back into our carrels and offices and close our eyes to society or we can take a position on this issue. Whether or not one agrees to divest, one must realize that we have the right to speak our minds and protest.

President Carovano, I and others have tried on your hat and we find it really quite too large to fit. At the upcoming meeting on Monday, I recommend that the faculty vote no confidence in the President's action and direct this College back towards education, not profit maximizing.

Sincerely
Ken Allen '87

Suffering universal

To the Editor:

A BRIEF STATEMENT ABOUT THE USE OF THE HOLOCAUST

I wish to address the language in which the divestment debate on campus has been couched.

I think that if the Holocaust is to be used as a model of the suffering of a people there is at least one clear lesson to be learned from it: that one's own suffering or that of one's people ought to open one to the sufferings of others. Whatever degree or form the suffering of others takes, whether it is like our own or unlike it, in degree or in scope, we need to be humble in the face of it. The Rabbis said: If one saves a single life, it is as if one has saved a whole world.

Sincerely,
Heidi M. Ravven

Letters

Valid comparison

To the Editor:

I write to remind President J. Martin Carovano that all too many comparisons exist between the state of emergency in Bothe's apartheid regime and the Holocaust. At the debate Monday, November 10, Carovano said, "There's nothing comparable to what went on in Nazi Germany at any other time. . . " Following the Soweto uprising, 570 people were killed in South Africa in 1976 alone. According to the New York Times, 1600 have died since late 1984. While the thousands of black South Africans killed in the past ten years does not yet approach the numbers of the genocide of six million Jews in the Holocaust, we must pay careful attention to the word "yet."

Somehow America managed to remain ignorant, though given many opportunities, of the slaughter of six million people until we had no choice but to confront the aftermath of World War II. Will we refuse to recognize the "moral catastrophe" (to quote Prof. Rick Werner) in South Africa until we allow another Holocaust to occur?

Jean Leverich '87

Antioch supports

To the Editor:

We students, staff and faculty of ANTIOCH COLLEGE support the students of Hamilton college in their right to discuss and protest the problems on their campus with their college administration.

Students raised concern about the trivialization of racism and discrimination on the part of some of the administration and panelists on a recent symposium about discrimination. We offer support to students when they speak out and fight back against their communities.

We ask that the suspensions be dropped from the twelve students who were attempting to speak with the president of Hamilton College and who conducted a sit-in inside the college business office from Wednesday November 12 to Friday November 14, 1986.

Sincerely,

Joshua A. Heller, student
Lorena J. Boswell, student
Martha Glynn, student
Catherine E. Downing, student
Keira Buttles, student
Joe Yarken, student
Scott Cromwell, student
Sven Frisell, student
Ward Jacox, student
BJ Horgeshimer, student
Jessica Buchanon, student
Yasha Sitz, student
Tracy Gath, alumna
Riki Bloom, student
Greta Schwerner, student
Sarah Kearns , student
Lisa Grossman , student
Robin Walters, student
Sean Wood, student
Heather Isely, student
May Lewin ,student
Gustave de Saint Vicler, student
John G. Ealoin, student
Dominique Moostin , student
Dawn Haney , student
Zola Mumford, student
Donna Derenthal, student
Cristina Muznen, student
Eric Gottlieb ,student
Dan Brewtan, student
Shalon Edwrds, student
Mark Crumrine ,student
Pete Canistra, student
John T. Williams, student
Greg Keller, student
Jim Strauss, student
Greg A. Potter, student
Maryanne McKiblin, student
Susan Humphreys, student
Lawrence K.Barden, student
Don Morse, student
Michael Casselli, student
Naomi Wolff, student
Daniel A. Nelson, student
Zita Kollar, student
Sean Heller, student
Dechen Tsering, student
Cheryl Porter, staff
Ricardo Muniz, student
Cynthia Anderson-Olmstead, student at Oberlin
Martin Kamya, student
Kimberly Lewis , student
Jennifer Kurtz, student
Ellen Baker,student
Stephanie Brash,student
Deborah Dorfman,student
Tracy Patterson ,community manager
Jennifer Vorih, community manager
Jane E. Aerenson , student
Jon Gubits,student
Paul J Glavin, student
Max L. McBride, student
David Nielson,student
Kimberly Martinson, student
Frank R. Marcucci, student
Daniel B. Holzman, student
Ted Kneider, student
Michael Olenick, student
Ginevra F. Gray, student
Melanie Everett, student
Beverly Lewis, student
Bella Omino , student
Sarah J. Meyer, student
Steven D. Duffy,staff
Scott Mahoy ,student
Robert L. Parker, Director, Cooperative Ed.
Leslie Thrope, student
Mark Berkow,student/asst. community manager
William Wiley , student
Diane Hamilton, student
Emily Anderson, student
Christine Pilolla, student
David J. Sindell , student
Marc Orleans, student
Robert Sorensen,student
Jennifer Kissinger, student
Chris Warner, student
Franklin Okumu, student
Emily Lambie, student
Cornelia Martin, student
Laura Zeitlin, student
Hope E. Harkins, student
Sara Ann Kole, student
Sharin Elkholy, student
Rachel Perlstein, student
Cheryl Carr, student
Shane M. Guy, student
Stephen A. Schwesner, Dean of Students
Elaine E. Comegys , Assoc. Dean of Students
James J. Altern, Jr.,Registrar
Joanne Curry, Staff
Virginia Garrette, staff
Christina M.Martin, staff
Ernestine Benning , Staff
Sandra L. Horner, staff
Ruth W. Stewart, faculty
Victoria Hitchcock, staff
Michael W. Stowe, student
Ted Harter, student
Al Aplin, student
Adrian Garver, student
J. Stephen Moriarty, student
Wendy Grab , student
Joey Woody, student
Emily Folk, student
Misty Derby-Martin, student
Jonathan Hammer, student
John Sims , student
Dan Runyan, student
Christopher Cassels , student
Jeffrey J. Amann, student
Michael C. Wujnovich, student
Sean Shiverick,student
Jackson Kitir, Administator
Jocelyn Robinson, Administrative Assistant
John Krimond, U.P. Development
Alan Guskin, Administrator
Jane Guckian, assistant
Jon Saari Administator
Patricia L. Linn , faculty
Linda Sikes,administration
Elissa M. Olin, Administrator
Edmond Conway,Provost
Lori Harding, Adminstrator
Charlene Buster , Administrator
Nancy Biggert, staff
Diana Craycraft, staff
Maxine Richard , staff
Diana Jankins , staff
Deborah Caraway, Administration
Diana Cotter, student
Robert W. Caldwell, student
Rosie Omino, student
Ricardo Ramos, student
Dan Rasmussen , student
Charles Hangley, student
David Nicol,student
Peter Mandelkern, former student
Robert Buesky , student
Diane Petzold, student
Karen Schwabach, student
Jennifer Schwabach, student
Simone Beck, student
Daniel Stein,student
Kenneth Adams, student
Abiel Leonard, student
Beth Bailey, student
K.E. Everhart, student
Tedros Kassa, student
Alex Gilbert ,student
Paul Walfan, worker
Susan Hindorff, student
Robert Schrott, student
Yvette J. Lester , student
Craig W. Johnson, student
Victor Garcia, Faculty
Noon Gourfain, student

Respect opposition

To the Editor;

May I suggest that while we are engaged on this campus in discussing very important issues, that we do not call each other names? Moral people can and do differ widely on what actions/policies should be taken in regard to moral issues. People may even differ honestly on what is or is not a 'moral catastrophe', although probably not in regard to apartheid.

For all time and in every culture, 'rights' have always been in conflict with each other In this modern experiment called democracy rights are always attached to duties. If I win a debate in our society, I have the duty not to kill you, imprison you, threaten you. And you have the same duties to me if you win. More than that, the loser always has the right, protected by law, peacefully to continue his efforts to change things. And the winner has the duty to protect him in this regard. "I disagree wholly with what you say but will protect to the death your right to say it" probably a misquote, but the seminal idea. Righteous violence has no place in a pluralistic, democratic society functioning under law. Pressures, of various sorts, yes. Violence, no. This is the fundamental difference between a totalitarian society and ours.

But beyond this, there is civility, courtesy and respect due someone who disagrees with you. Especially on a campus devoted to rational, reasonable debate on important issues. Especially when one feels strongly about the issues. Our task as partisans sometimes conflicts with our roles as teachers or students., The object of a liberal arts education is to teach us all (a continuing process) how to make choices on both moral and rational grounds. Let's keep our debates at a high level of both.

Yours, etc.,
Channing B. Richardson

Hunger strike

To the Editor:

Due to the recent events which led to the eventual suspension of 12 students, we the undersigned wish to express our disappointment and lack of confidence in the Administration's handling of the situation and to protest our impeded freedom of speech.

Due to the temporary restraining order that has been placed, in effect, on the entire Hamilton community, we do not wish to act in such a way that the Administration mav consider to be "disruptive." It is unprodictable what the Administration may find to be so. Therefore, we decided to refrain from eating. This action is non-violent, non-disruptive, and within the few forms of protest that are within the bounds of the forementioned TRO. We question the Administration's response to other forms of non-disruptive forms of protest. We believe this one to be drastic enough to demonstrate the urgency we feel.

Beyond disappointment in the Administration and our protest of our impeded freedom of speech, the individuals each have their own personal reasons for refraining from food. Consequently, each individual will not eat only as long as s/he deems necessary.

We began our form of protest after hearing of President Carovano's refusal to reinstate the twelve suspended students on November 18th at 12 noon.

Nicholas R. Crump '90
Cynthia Leigh Keim '87
Sarah Wolf
Michelle Novilli '90
Andrew R. Marsh
Robin Smith '90
Revell Carr

Letters must be received no later than 5 pm the Monday before publication. All letters must be signed, typewritten, doublespaced and not exceeding 300 words. All letters must be to the Editor. The Spectator does not gaurantee that all letters will be printed. Names will be withheld from signed letters upon request. No anonymous letters will be printed.

Letters

Dear Mr. President

(The following letters have been sent to the President and other college administrators. The authors have asked us to print them so that they can express their concerns to the community as well.)

Unjustly accused

Dear Mr.Carovano,

I am one of a select group of students who received a letter of formal warning on November 13, 1986. I was and continue to be surprised by this letter because it states that I "occupied Buttrick Hall on the afternoon of November 12, 1986." The letter continues with statements that say I "remained in the building after (I) had been instructed by College officials to leave and after the official closing time of that office building."

I do not understand how or why Dean Jervis chose me to be the recipient of this letter. Dean Jervis states that she, Dean Savage, Dean McGee, and security together compiled the list of names of people who were supposedly in Buttrick Hall on November 12, 1986. I am unsure of exactly how this list was compiled because a number of these said students were not there on that day. I am one of those students. Others were unaware of the happenings until later on in the week. I am forced to assume that the deans and security randomly picked people that they assumed would have been at a sit-in in support of the demands for which many students were protesting.

After rereading the college catalogue and policies and procedures, I am also unsure of the meaning of the formal warning. My inaccurate and invalid letter states "...you must not participate in further demonstrations which disrupt public order or which obstruct the normal use of buildings or facilities at Hamilton. If you do, you will be subject to further disciplanary action, up to and including immediate separation from the College. Continuation of unlawful conduct will jeopardize your future at Hamilton."

This is very strong language. Unfortunately, this statement completely contradicts the catalogue in which it is printed that a liberal arts education is wholeheartedly complemented by "curiosity, ... tolerant understanding, and enlightened judgement." Also, "the college does not attempt to teach a specific set of values ... yet recognizes ... the importance of sound values ... to encourage their development." "The opportunity at Hamilton for students to take their liberal arts education into their own hands is greater than at most other colleges." All of these quotes come from the first page in the catalogue under Academic Purposes and Goals. This section states that actions done in support of those quotes are possible and acceptable when done in support of "the *larger institutional purpose.*"

All of the actions taken in the past week by said students were in support of the *larger institutional purpose.* These students were protesting against racism, sexism, paternalism, etc. Members of five different prominent campus organizations joined together along with students not necessarily involved with any campus organizations to openly show anger concerning past injustices on this campus and to openly state their commitment to the implementation of long overdue changes.

These students did not "disrupt public order or obstruct the normal use of buildings or facilities" because there was no disorder due to the protest and these students did not obstruct the normal use of buildings or facilities because the normal business of the building had been completed prior to their entry on Wednesday and on Thursday and Friday, the workers were instructed not to come in to work. This instruction had only two possible consequences: 1) the complete disruption of public order, and 2) the complete obstruction of the normal use of Buttrick Hall. Students cannot be blamed for prior decisions made by the college administration, especially when the decisions were not made known to these same students.

The issuance of formal warnings contradicts the College's encouragement of "controversy and indulged dissent". The issuanceofthese formal warnings, threatening devices used to instill fear, is a violent act - a direct violation of the College's deploration of the use of violence, using every effort to prevent violence. It should also be understood that the term "public order" is an arbitrary one and a clear, printed definition of the term should accompany the Freedom of Expression section of the Policies and Procedures Handbook of Hamilton College. For the administration to spontaneously declare various demonstrations chaotic (without public order) is to beg the question because without a public and known definition of public order, there cannot be a definition for chaos (the lack of Public order). Without clear definitions, students cannot be held responsible for faulty interpretations.

These formal warnings were issued randomly and without precedent. The suspensions that followed were unjust and improper because of a lack of communication between the students and administration, because of the implementation of completely new rules without precedent and without proper procedure, and because of the many obvious hasty decisions that solely were taken in an effort to quell student dissent. For these reasons, it is obvious and essential that the Hamilton College administration, headed by President J. Martin Carovano, rescind all formal warnings and suspensions immediately. A letter of apology to the campus community is past due. The administration would and should want to publish an exact clear definition of "public order" and more importantly, the "maintenance of public order."

Sincerely,

Elena K. Makau '88

Taken to task

Dear Deans of Students, President Carovano, Vice President O'Leary:

You have helped the College define itself. By denying the rights of twelve students you have created not only a martyr-like situation, you have lost the confidence of parents, faculty, students and the general community, myself included. The reaction of the administration was totally disproportionate to the action of the students considering what has been ignored in the past. How can you possibly legitimize suspending twelve students for peaceful protest while allowing the very acts of racism and sexism which were being protested to slip through your pseudo-administrative hands. I sight the return of a rapist as an example of the skewed view to discipline you communicate to the College.

If the twelve students are not reinstated *FULLY*, I suggest to all of you the idea of resigning from your positions. Conscience before duty? To give an example which may be extreme yet applicable: when the S.S. Troopers of Nazi Germany were asked why they continued to systematically murder millions, they responded: 'I was only following orders.' Is that your excuse? Where are your moral responsibilities, not to mention your understanding of the legal system?

It appears to me that my next two and a half years here will be a period of continuous struggle; a struggle to fight an administration who acts vehemently against *peaceful* individuals who seek justice.

Orwellian tactics will be your undoing.

It will take a long time for these wounds to heal. Have you too been silenced?

With deepest regrets,

Mark Green '89

Communicate please!

President Carovano:

I am appalled by the lack of communication between you and the students/faculty. I cannot believe the inaccessibility revealed by your refusal to meet with students about your comments at the debate, and about racism, sexism and other forms of prejudice at Hamilton, and revealed by your precipitate decision to suspend twelve students.

I cannot recall even one time when you, the empowered figurehead of the institution, have initiated awareness or sensitivity to those who have been overtly alienated. Never in my memory have you ever attempted to prevent a conflict or problem by seeking out those who have expressed their dissatisfaction.

Once again, in the hope of sincere communication, students were the ones who were forced to initiate and define the communication process. As a concerned President, it should have been obvious to you that your remarks on Monday night offended many people, black people particularly.

You should have approached those students who walked out in protest. Instead you followed your precedent of not indicating your awareness of student dissent by sitting in silence. In response to that silence, the concerned students were forced to approach you. We feel that it is our right to have a President who is concerned and aware of the sentiment of the community.

You were on campus Wednesday night and could have defused the situation by simply meeting with the protesters. Perhaps an open door policy is not enough. Perhaps the administration needs to be preceptive not simply receptive.

Jordon Hamowy

OpEd

Gays and Lesbians seek a voice

by the GLA

The following is the statement presented by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Monday's meeting with President Carovano.

We are representatives from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance and we are members of this coalition. We feel discriminated against on this campus for the following reasons:

First, gay and lesbian realities were entirely ignored at a symposium specifically *designed* to reduce discrimination on this campus. By not representing a homosexual voice in the planned series of lectures, you have chosen not to recognize us which further oppresses us.

Second, each year we are granted an inadequate budget which represses our voice. A yearly budget of $800 does not allow our organization to adequately inform and educate this campus. Furthermore, when we ask to co-sponsor events with other student organizations, the Student Assembly denies our right to do so. Since our budget debilitates us rather than strengthens us, *and* we cannot sponsor a significant speaker on our own, we were offended by the absence of a gay and/or lesbian speakers on the symposium and in the planned series of lectures.

Third, by excluding sexual orientation from the college's Equal Opportunity Statement, you openly discriminate against the gay and lesbian community at Hamilton. This community includes both students and faculty who risk illegal discrimination in decisions of hiring and tenure. This oppression further homogenizes the Hamilton campus and discourages gay and lesbian identification in the community. The inclusion of the "sexual orientation" clause has been unanimously approved by the faculty, however, the trustees have voted down the clause because they felt that discrimination against the homosexual community does not exist. When the Trustees deny the existence of homophobia on our campus they in turn deny our homosexual existence. And since homophobia exists daily at our school, the Trustees' decision ultimately denies that homophobia is a reprehensible form of discrimination.

In closing, we would like to bring to your attention that approximately 10% or 160 students comprise the homosexual community. The entire campus needs to be educated and made aware of issues concerning homohobia, heterosexism, gay and lesbian rights, and of the accomplishments of homosexuals in our society. All the discriminations we have above mentioned have worked to diminish our voice.

OpEd

Sexism and racism the emergency

by The Women's Center

The following is the statement presented by the Women's Center at Monday's meeting with President Carovano.

We are five members of the Women's Center and we stand in support of the five groups (and thirteen individuals) that are (represented) here today. As the Women's Center, we have committed ourselves to understanding and fighting oppression in our own lives and in the lives of others — on this campus and in what is often called the "real world." We have come as individuals, as members of an organization, and as members of a coalition that shares these concerns.

As women and men involved in the Women's Center, we have many concerns that we feel you ought to be aware of at this point in time. More clearly than ever, we recognize the inequities and injustices that take place on this campus every day. It is not only the oppressions that individuals inflict upon individuals that we find abhorent. We struggle every day with the oppression inflicted upon us by this educational institution.

As Hamilton struggles to live up to its name as a co-educational institution, it seems to make blunders along the way. At this point though, we cannot assume these blunders to be the results of individuals who are unsure of the meaning of the word co-education. We assume these to be the indicators of an Administration that is NOT COMMITTED to the true co-education, and true co-equality of Hamilton College.

How can this institution claim to be committed to these principles when on Friday, November 7th an alumni forum was held on "Prejudice and Discrimination", and the issue of discrimination against women was barely if at all addressed. Why wasn't there a speaker to specifically address the problems that almost half of the students currently at Hamilton face and will face when they leave? We recognize that very few, if any of the members of the alumni counsel came out of a Co-educational Hamilton, and that none of them actually know what it means to be discriminated against as a woman...And so we ask — Who were these speakers actually asked to address?

Why was the one woman on the panel a woman who is in fact connected to Hamilton only through her male family members — her father and her son? Why wasn't a Kirkland graduate or a recent Hamilton woman graduate asked to speak? And how can we as women consider ourselves to be full members of this community when the institution itself ignores our history here?

How can we as women hear our Administrators say that if we want more women as professors and role models, that perhaps we should spend some time at a Women's College? We cannot accept the lack of commitment our College has continually shown in regard to the hiring of more women and minority faculty. If the commitment were there, (and yes, maybe that does mean the money), then something would be done.

How can we as women and as members of the Women's Center be asked by our Administration to sacrifice our goals and our concerns for co-education in favor of sexism, racism, and elitism? We, the women, seem to represent the numbers and the niceties Hamilton can use for its own purposes, but we seriously wonder at the reality behind that so-called "remedy" of co-education.

How much is Hamilton prepared to stand behind us? We find the steps that this Administration has taken to protect and defend the rights of women on this campus to be unacceptable:

How many women need to complain about the abuses they suffered at the hands of a prominent male doctor on this campus. . . until he is *asked* to leave.

How many physical assualts by one man have to be reported until this man is properly dealt with.

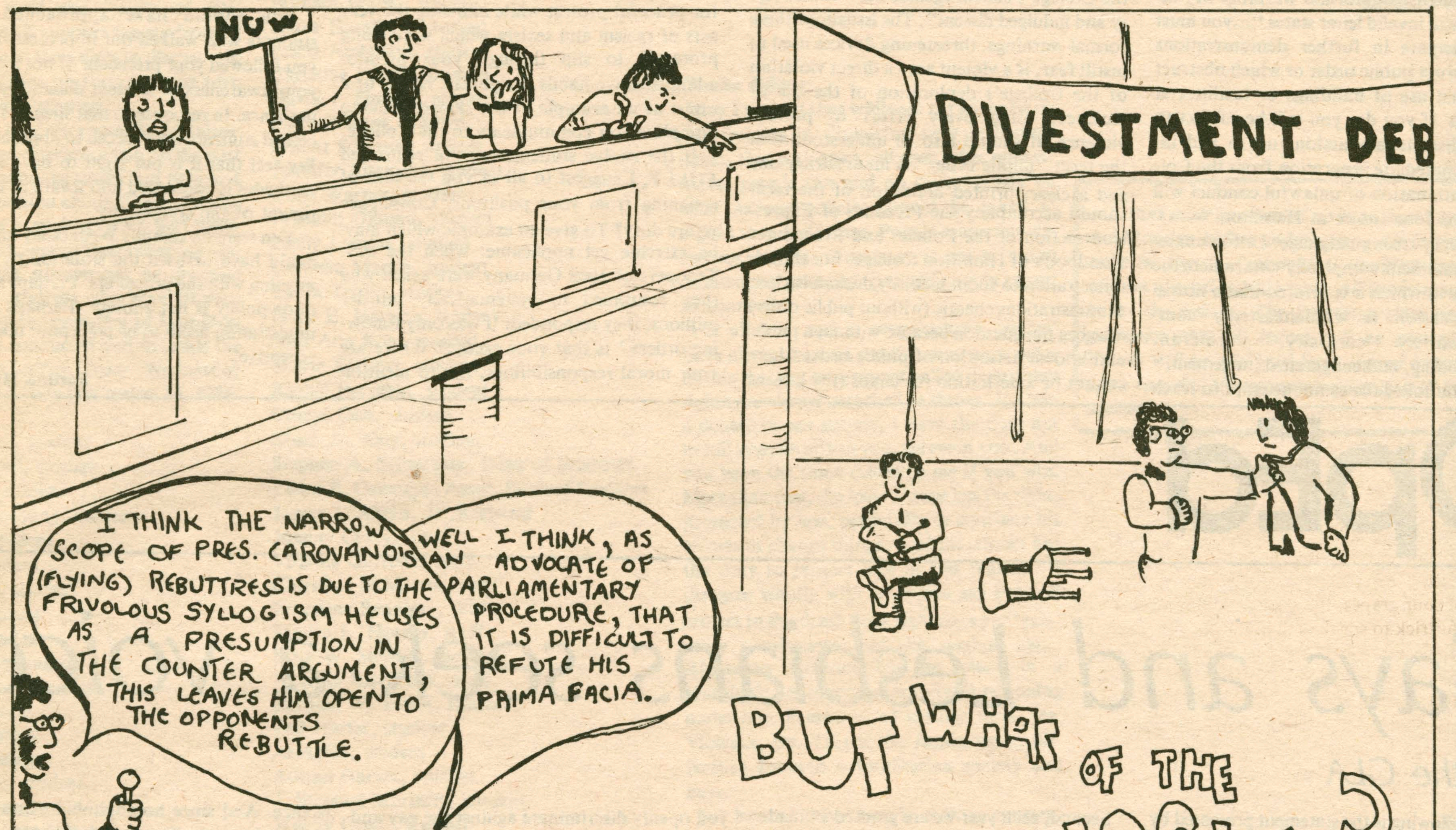
How many diaphragms have to be stolen as parts of initiation acts until that fraternity is disbanded?

And how many women have to be raped until this college can take a stand?

Some of us are forced to wonder about this every day. We suffer and we too are victims of these crimes.

We recognize today that this college takes action against the twelve individuals that sat peacefully in Buttrick Hall for two days. We cannot, and we will not, accept this unjustified action handed down in what is called a "State of Emergency." We seriously question what the emergency was? We consider the assualts, the abuses, the rapes, the heterosexism, the anti-semetism, the RACISM, and the SEXISM to BE THE EMERGENCY!

We will not stop our struggle. We will continue to fight the oppression — the oppression of individuals by individuals, and the oppression we suffer at the hands of this College.



Ecrasez L'Infame!

by James Keepnews

Since the Administration made its decision to suspend the Hamilton 12, there has been an uneasy feeling on campus. A friend of mine put it as well as I have heard any student assess this feeling: "It doesn't even feel like we're at school anymore." And I would agree, only to the extent that we are learning now is of a quality far removed from the secure hypotheticalism which distinguishes the classroom dynamic. For those twelve students who remained in Buttrick Hall in contempt of a court-issued restraining order and in defiance of the threat of suspension, there is a question that what they think and believe what is in their conscience, in the realm of the contemplative have definite consequences in the "real world." The Deans shattered this distinction last Friday. Yet, some of the campus view the events of the past week and a half in simpler terms: They were warned and they ignored this warning and they paid the price. It stands to reason that if these twelve students ignored the warning that was issued them, they felt they were justified in doing so, implying that the Administration was not justified in their action: should there be any doubts about the latter, make no mistake: the Administration was *not* justified. There are so many misperceptions, inconsistencies and outright violations of our rights evident in their handling of this affair as compared to previous incidents at Hamilton that the course of action is obvious — the Administration can not be allowed to get away with such arbitrary abuses of power. This is not an Administration which, as it claims in Policies and Procedures, "indulges dissent": no rod was spared with the Hamilton 12; the Administration shafted them.

The protestors wished to speak with President Carovano about the considerable problems at Hamilton, concerning racism and sexism. This is particularly noteworthy for, despite the fact that their presence in Buttrick took the form of a sit-in, they were trying to transcend the symbolic and disruptive nature of such a protest; they wanted to *communicate* with the President on matters of great concern to Hamilton as a community, whether or not the community can see the vital need to deal with the prevalence of racism and sexism. (Jervis' account of how no one showed up Wednesday evening to discuss their concerns with her takes the form of sour grapes; the students did not come to Buttrick to speak with her in the first place.) However, President Carovano could not speak to them as he was out of town — that is, until that evening. Why did he refuse to talk with them then and there? He claims to have had his "agents" communicate to those who occupied Buttrick that he would not speak with them until they left the building. The protestors intent was clear from the start — to have it out with President Carovano so that the air would be cleared, and, at the very least, they would have a greater understanding of his positions — but the president clearly did not want to be "over a barrel", as it were; he wanted to have it his way and not have it appear as though he was giving in. Even Ronald Reagan has of late recanted his rhetoric on talking with terrorists when there was a pressing need for it. (I've heard rumors that Hamilton's lawyer's are, mirabile dictu, referring to those students and faculty involved with the sit-in as "terrorists". My lords, I love the law. . .) But, as we shall see, the Administration has got this thing about conditions. Still, perhaps we should try seeing from the President's perspective: He remarked at Wednesday's faculty meeting thusly, "You know damn well that students don't need to have sit-ins to speak with me." Apparently not; when the group was finally informed of President Carovano's "terms" on Thursday by Ben Ramsey (Carovano's 'agent'?), the President was not around to be spoken with in any way, having left early that morning for New York.

Why did Buttrick remain closed during the protestors' occupation? Dean Jervis asserts that previous demonstrations have impeded the proper activities of the College (I take my language from Policies and Procedures). Nevertheless, there were no employees of the Colege present in Buttrick, when the protestors arrived except for Dean Jervis, a dean's secretary, the switchboard operator, and members of Hamilton's security Force (Dean O'Leary left the building early on), none of whom were impeded in any way from their proper activities. It was the dean's who closed Buttrick, thus no impeding was possible even if it *was* intended; it was they who "(denied) the right of authorized persons to enter and work" in Buttrick (P & P, pg. 43, sec. 3a) Unfortunately, nowhere in Policies and Procedures are there provisions for the suspension/removal of members of the Administration when they transgress the rules prescribed therein. I cannot seriously accept Dean Jervis' drawing on past experience to assume that the protestors would have impeded College affairs. As Americans, we are not only guaranteed due process; we are protected against prior restraint.

There is a question even more begged by the Administration's actions: why, if they were so concerned about Buttrick being free of protestors, did they not merely lock its doors? This was what Jervis did last year when Hamiltonians for Divestment attempted to have a sit in at the Admissions office and were most effectively repelled. By all accounts, Buttrick might as well have been locked; person or persons of unknown had all employees, except for those mentioned above, leave early last Wednesday before the arrival of the protestors and thus, there was no preventing her from locking up Buttrick. It is possible that the Administration *wanted* the students to come there, in the hopes of taking disciplinary action and thereby quelling the extraordinary increase in student activism over the last year? Consider the facts: Jervis admits that students have been photographed and videotaped for "the protection of the College and of the students as well". How it protects the students *or* the college is anybody's guess, but there is no doubt as to how much this outrageous "blacklisting" aids the Administration. All those considered subversive are now preserved for the perusal of those whom such information best serves. Or maybe it does not serve them as well as one might think. Dean Jervis sent warning letters to those whom she believed were involved in the Buttrick incident. Yet, several letters reached the boxes of the students who were not involved in the sit in; some, indeed were never at Buttrick. As if it weren't bad enough that Jervis used threat tactics to silence the voices of those who have serious reservations with the Administration, one has now the added anxiety of even being associated with protestors lest he or she be branded one ond then having one's parents informed that their formerly non-militant progeny might now be "separated from the college". What is going on at Hamilton?

Both Carovano and Jervis asserted at the faculty meeting that the ultimate rationale for the "state of emergency" and concomitant increase in executive powers leading to the suspension of the twelve was to clear Buttrick. Jervis, once more, invoked the spectre of the past, claiming that, in past demonstrations where protesters were "not welcome", students had never "voluntary chose" to leave the places they were demonstrating. I quote from President Carovano at said meeting: "They have insisted they could go where they want! (his emphasis)" Ms. Jervis concurred: "They have left the offices when *they* (her emphasis) chose. . ." On the face of it, these statements suggest that the protesters have, in fact, used voluntary choice, so this is clearly not the term these administrators want. Perhaps "conditional choice" is a touch more accurate. Whether it is the president's conditions for discussion in order to save face, or whether it is to protest in such a way as is palatable to the powers that be (which, by difinition, is not anything resembling protest) or whether it is limiting the available means of appeal and redress for the twelve to the Trustees and/or to civil court proceedings, the Administration has attempted to create conditions where in they maintain superiority over any who disagree with them and lewing those dissenting parties with a mockery of "voluntary choice". It is little wonder that President Carovano, by his own admission, "feels comfortable" about the suspension and why shouldn't he? I refer again to Policies and Procedures, page four, final paragraph: "Neither the College, nor any of its trustees, officers, faculty *or administrative staff* (my emphasis), shall be subject to *any liability* (mine) whatsoever an account of such suspension or separation." Until it is determined whether or not any member of the Administration appears in court, I wouldn't be too sure.

The college claims to "encourage controversy and indulge dissent," but I have chosen to use the word "protest", which is, to paraphrase President Carovano, different in kind from the other two terms; the difference, indeed, from the contemplative and the real. In trying to squelch the real, the Administration has a great deal more to contemplate than I believe it bargained for. The faculty is the faculty; they will be here (with certain exceptions. . .) long after I leave and understand the needs of the college far better than I do. Yet, I have positively "no confidence" in the President after his suspension of the Hamilton 12. His actions are the rankest sort of reactionism and proof of his utter detachment and isolation from what happens at Hamilton. He does not understand that the nature of protest is not safe, not quiet, not *comfortable*. Thoreau did not write on the comfort of civil disobedience; he wrote on its duty. Were the Hamilton 12 and others who sit-in at Buttrick unwise, as a professor at the faculty meeting suggested? I do not believe so. The sit-in was non-violent and well-intentioned. I believe a patronizing "lecture" and year-long "forms" on racism, which will not institute an Afro-American studies program, nor guarantee Edgar paiewonsky-Conte tenure, not increase the number of minority students at Hamilton to a significant degree, not address the problem of acquaintance rape, nor shed light on sexism at Hamilton, nor see that a man found guilty of rape serve his entire suspension, to be incredibly unwise.

Editorial

Student rights violated

We have chosen to confine this week's issue of *The Spectator* only to the events of the past week dealing with the decision by the President to unilaterally suspend twelve students. Our choice is not made lightly and it seemed to us the best way to provide information to those on and off the Hill while supporting the student strike. Also, we hope that this format points out the seriousness of the issues at hand.

Hamilton has had in place for many years *The Guide to Policy and Procedures*. This handbook is meant to serve as a general guide for the internal governance of students at Hamilton. Sections of the book are ambiguous, and although we feel a strong case can be made that the President's actions were not allowed by the book's guidelines, quibbling over the legal semantics really misses the point. The spirit of the *Guide* is that we are all guaranteed due process if an infraction of college rules occurs. One of Hamilton's outstanding points is the existence of the Honor Court and the J-Board. Both are student bodies where we are entrusted to be responsible enough to govern our own affairs.

We have a President, however, who feels that an executive decision can overrule any process and whose judgement can not be questioned or even advised by faculty or students. We question the right of any executive to operate above our laws. We have a Dean of Students who feels that due process is too slow. It may be slow but that is how the rights of the accused are protected.

In an emergency the J-Board can be convened quickly. In fact, Honor Court chair, Colin McKearnan, pointed out at the faculty meeting that Dean Jervis knows full well that 40% of Honor Court cases are convened in less than the stated week.

Finally, we have a J-Board chair who does not wish to hear the case and supports an executive decision. By supporting the actions of the President, the Chair seems to support finding students guilty without a fair hearing. While student leaders and the Student Assembly have been quick to stand up for the right of students, he has been unsupportive. If the Chair is not interested in hearing the most important student case in years, why become Chair in the first place?

Whether or not one agrees with the protestors or their actions, there are issues here which we all must be concerned with. The President exercised a great deal of power and assessed what is a severe penalty without even being on campus. As a matter of fact, he returned to campus and left again. The situation was not serious enough to remain, and yet was serious enough to be called an emergency requiring the use of special powers.

At the faculty meeting, the President challenged the faculty by saying that they need not waste time voting against his decision because he would not change his mind. He said that they should vote only on a motion of no confidence in him. He cautioned them to think very seriously about their vote and to think whether they or any other faculty member could do the job he does. Perhaps, before he turns the issue of the suspensions into a referendum on his presidency, Mr. Carovano should consider whether or not a willingness to personally communicate with the protestors, a respect for faculty opinion,and the integrity to serve a severe a penalty in person instead of through a Dean from 400 miles away, might not be qualtities desirable in a president.

The power of the administration should concern us all. The administration is seriously consideing issuing video equipment to Security so that they can follow and film any of us at any time. The entire campus is, at the moment, under a restraining order which prohibits us from disrupting normal college functioning. "Disruptive" is defined by the administration. Might not this special edition be seen as disruptive of normal function? Should we expect a security guard stationed to film us all night long? Think about whether *you* want Security following you around with a camera this weekend. Should your next party-a group action where disciplinary problems have occured-be filmed and a judgement made determining whether your actions meet the definition of "disruptive?"

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